

Message Text

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ACTION DHA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SY-05 FBIE-00 VO-03 CA-01
INSE-00 PRS-01 DODE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00
/078 W

-----010176 080957Z/16

O R 080849Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6267
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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TOKYO FOR INS

HONG KONG FOR DIDIR INS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: INDOCHINA REFUGEESS ON FRENCH VESSEL "MIRANDA"

REF: PARIS 25592 (NOTAL), STATE 209366 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: IN MEETING MORNING SEPTEMBER 8 WITH EMBOFF, MOFA CONSULAR OFFICIAL NOTED THAT MINISTRY OF JUSTICE INTENDS TO DENY "MIRANDA" REFUGEES LANDING PERMISSION ON GROUNDS THAT ONLY ONE OF NINETY-ONE REFUGEES PERMITTED TO LAND SINCE JUNE HAS ACTUALLY BEEN RESETTLED SO FAR (IN FRANCE), AND THAT ROK IS HAVING DIFFICULTY FINDING SUITABLE FACILITIES FOR MORE. NOW THAT ROK FOREIGN MINISTER HAS RETURNED FROM JAPAN, MOFA IS EXPECTED TO REQUEST RECONSIDERATION BY MOJ. EMBOFF EXPRESSED HOPE OF USG THAT "MIRANDA" REFUGEES

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WILL BE ALLOWED TO LAND AND RESTATED USG POLICY AND PLANS RE TAKING 7,000 BOAT CASES. MOFA CLEARLY DISAPPOINTED AT EMBASSY'S INABILITY TO PROVIDE DEFINITE INFO RE NUMBERS OF REFUGEES IN KOREA TO BE ACCEPTED BY U.S. AND TIMETABLE, WITHOUT WHICH MOFA IS AT DISADVANTAGE IN DEALING WITH MOJ. END SUMMARY.

1. CONSUL GENERAL DISCUSSED "MIRANDA" BOAT REFUGEES WITH MOFA ACTING DIRECTOR BUREAU OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS, KIM, BONG JIN. ACCORDING KIM, MINISTRY OF JUSTICE DOES NOT WANT PERMIT LATEST GROUP OF REFUGEES TO LAND BECAUSE, EXCEPT FOR ONE REFUGEE WHO WENT TO FRANCE, THERE HAS BEEN NO MOVEMENT OUT OF KOREA BY THE PREVIOUSLY ADMITTED REFUGEES, THE FIRST GROUP OF WHICH ARRIVED HERE JUNE 17. THE MOJ IS BEING PRAGMATIC ABOUT PROBLEM, ANTICIPATES MORE REFUGEES, AND WITH OUT CONCRETE DEMONSTRATION THAT ONES ALREADY LANDED ARE GOING TO LEAVE DOES NOT WISH TO ADD ANY MORE. MOI ALSO CLAIMS DIFFICULTY IN FINDING "FACILITIES" FOR ACCOMMODATING ADDITIONAL NUMBERS, ESPECIALLY WITH "WINTER" APPROACHING. APPARENTLY MOJ ADVOCATING POLICY TO ALLOW ONLY REFUGEES PICKED UP BY KOREAN REGISTERED VESSELS TO LAND IN KOREA. KIM SAID MOFA FAVORS A LIBERAL POLICY OF TEMPORARILY LANDING REFUGEES, BUT MOJ HAS THE FINAL ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY. FOREIGN MINISTER JUST RETURNED FROM JAPAN AND WAS BRIEFED ON PROBLEMS BY VICE MINISTER THIS MORNING. KIM INDICATED FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD LIKELY DECIDE TO URGE MOJ TO GIVE LANDING PERMISSION.

2. KIM REPORTED RECEIPT OF TELEGRAM FROM ROK EMBASSY PARIS THAT ROK AMBASSADOR WAS CALLED TO FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY CONCERNING "MIRANDA" REFUGEES. REGARDING THE SEVENTEEN REFUGEES DESIRING RESETTLEMENT IN FRANCE, FRENCH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPORTEDLY MADE COMMITMENT TO ACCEPT ALL SEVENTEEN AND TO PAY ALL EXPENSES. FURTHER THEY GUARANTEED THAT THEY WOULD FLY OUT THE SEVENTEEN FROM KOREA WITHIN FIVE DAYS, IF ROKG GRANTS LANDING PERMISSION. FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY STATED THAT THEY HAD ALREADY MADE THIS COMMITMENT TO UNHCR. THEY ALSO ANNOUNCED THEIR INTENTION TO CONTACT USG ABOUT THE REMAINING 53 REFUGEES, ALL OF WHICH WE UNDERSTAND HAVE EXPRESSED A PEFERENCE FOR RESETTLEMENT IN U.S.

3. CONSUL GENERAL NOTED THAT PROBLEM IS NOT LIMITED TO KOREA, THAT IT IS A PROBLEM THAT MUST BE SHARED BY ALL CONCERNED COUNTRIES ON HUMANTARIAN GROUNDS. REGARDING LIMITD FACILITIES, THE UNHCR WOULD UNDERWRITE EXPENSES. ONCE AGAIN OUR ANNOUNCED POLICY CONCERNING BOAT CASE REFUGEES WAS EXPLAINED, BUT NO DEFINITE COMMITMENT COULD BE GIVEN REGARDING HOW MANY, IF ANY, REFUGEES WOULD ULTIMATELY BE ACCEPTED BY U.S., OR EXACTLY WHEN.

4. CLEARLY THE ROKG IS LOOKING FOR DEFINITE ACTION ON THE PART OF THE U.S. REGARDING THESE REFUGESS IN KOREA. AT PRESENT WE CAN ONLY RESTATE OUR POLICY BUT GIVE NO

APPROXIMATE NUMBERS OR APPROXIMATE DATES AS TO WHEN WE
MIGHT ACCEPT REFUGEES. IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL TO
HAVE AN INS OFFICER VISIT KOREA SOONEST, AND START PROCESSING
REFUGEES AND SHOWING SOME PROGRESS IN ORDER TO
STRENGTHEN THE HANDS OF THOSE IN THE ROKG WHO WISH
ALLOW FUTURE REFUGEES TO BE GIVEN TEMPORARY LANDING
PERMISSION AND SHELTER.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8763aa4a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION DHA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 PARIS 25592, 77 STATE 209366
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1347202
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDOCHINA REFUGESS ON FRENCH VESSEL "MIRANDA"
TAGS: SREF, VM
To: STATE PARIS
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8763aa4a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009